Choosing a Cell Phone Plan

Now it's Luz's turn to evaluate her cell phone plan. Three times last year, she went over her monthly airtime allowance and had to pay a lot in extra charges. Should she switch plans? Let's analyze the data and find out.

The Choices: Plan A vs. Plan B

	Plan A	Plan B
Monthly Access	$39.99	$59.99
Monthly Airtime Allowance	400 minutes	600 Minutes
Additional Minutes	.45	.40

DATA IS A COLLECTION OF FACTS, OFTEN NUMERICAL, ABOUT A SUBJECT, SUCH AS EMPLOYMENT, COMPANY PROFITS, OR HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES.

Cell Phone Talk

Monthly Access: the cost per month to use a phone

Monthly Airtime Allowance: the number of minutes allowed per month for the price of the monthly access charge

Additional Minutes: an additional charge for every minute used over the monthly airtime allowance

The Data: How long did Luz talk?

Luz's Cell Phone Usage Last Year

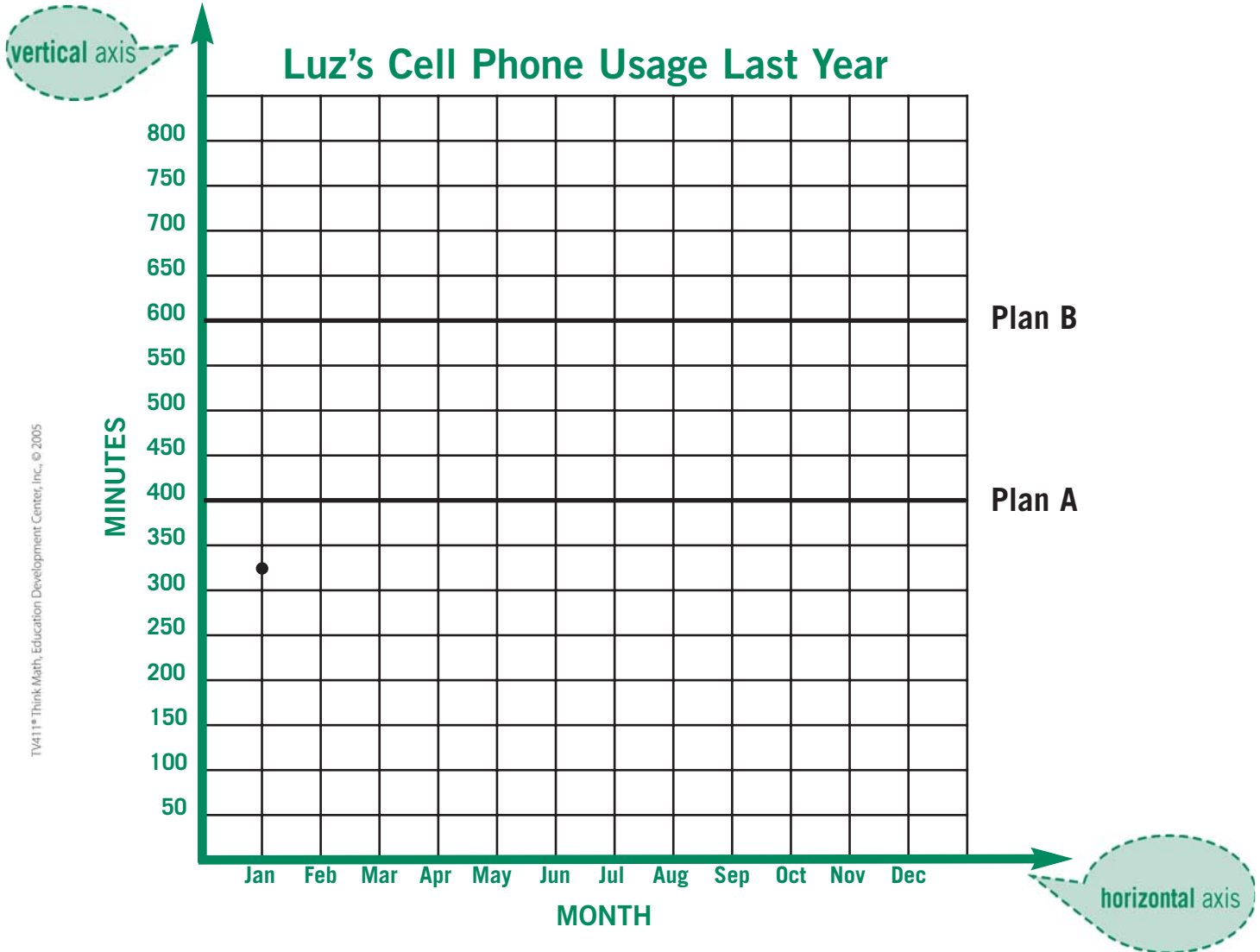| Month	Minutes Used
January	325
February	390
March	410
April	675
May	350
June	380
July	400
August	590
September	250
October	375
November	350
December	325

Luz has Plan A. How many additional minutes did she pay for last year? _____

If Luz had Plan B, how many additional minutes would she have paid for? _____

THE DATA: 475 min.; 75 min.

The Graph: Picturing the data

Plot the data from the chart onto the graph below. Here's how:

- Find the month on the horizontal axis.
- Move up this line until you find the number of minutes used.
- Mark this data point. (The first month is done for you.)
- After you have filled in all the months, draw a line connecting the points.

Luz's Cell Phone Usage Last Year

MINUTES

MONTH

Plan B

Plan A

vertical axis

horizontal axis

The Math: Choosing the plan

Based on last year's pattern of use, which plan is cheaper? _____

	Access Charges:		**Additional Minutes Charges:**	**TOTAL COST** for one year
	Multiply the monthly access charge by 12.		Multiply the number of additional minutes by the additional minutes charge.	
PLAN A	_____ x 12 = _____	**+**	_____ x _____ = _____	**=** _____
PLAN B	_____ x 12 = _____	**+**	_____ x _____ = _____	**=** _____

THE MATH: Plan A - $693.63; Plan B - $749.88; Plan A is cheaper.